

**House File 2249 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2249

BY HEIN

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act allowing benefited recreational lake districts and water  
2 quality districts to become members of watershed management  
3 authorities.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 466B.2, subsection 3, Code 2016, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 3. "*Political subdivision*" means a any of the following:

4 a. A city~~r~~.

5 b. A county~~r~~ or.

6 c. A soil and water conservation district described in  
7 section 161A.5.

8 d. A benefitted recreational lake district or a water quality  
9 district or a combined district incorporated as a public entity  
10 and organized pursuant to chapter 357E.

11 EXPLANATION

12 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
13 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

14 BILL. This bill provides that a benefitted recreational lake  
15 district, a water quality district, or a combined district,  
16 organized under Code chapter 357E, may participate as a member  
17 of a watershed management authority under Code chapter 466B,  
18 subchapter II.

19 BACKGROUND — WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES. A watershed  
20 management authority is an organization formed under a Code  
21 chapter 28E agreement entered into by certain political  
22 subdivisions (cities, counties, or soil and water conservation  
23 districts) that are located within a regional watershed (Code  
24 chapter 466B.22). The purpose of the authority is to engage  
25 in watershed planning and management activities, including  
26 flood control or mitigation and water quality improvement  
27 (Code section 466B.23). An authority is governed by a board  
28 of directors comprised of individuals appointed by their  
29 respective member political subdivisions (Code section  
30 466B.24).

31 BACKGROUND — DISTRICTS. A benefitted recreational lake  
32 district is territory contiguous to a recreational lake, or to  
33 other property that is contiguous to the recreational lake, and  
34 is formed to enhance recreation facilities for the residents  
35 of the district. A water quality district is territory

1 contiguous to a stream, river, or lake, or to other property  
2 that is contiguous to the stream, river, or lake, and is formed  
3 to enhance water quality facilities for the residents of the  
4 district (Code section 357E.2). In order to form a district,  
5 the board of supervisors must receive a petition signed by a  
6 specified number of owners of territory located within the  
7 proposed district, and within 10 days after a hearing on the  
8 petition must either establish the district by resolution or  
9 disallow the petition (Code sections 357E.3 and 357E.5).